

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of creating a customized tree in a computer from a original tree
2 containing objects from a data storage device connected to the computer, the method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 selecting one or more objects on the original tree to be contained in the
5 customized tree in response to user input;
6 linking the selected objects in a user-specified manner.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter
3 specifies a selection criteria to select objects to be contained within the selected object on
4 the customized tree; and
5 applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the
6 objects to be contained within the selected object.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying the filter further
2 comprises the step of selecting objects from multiple parent objects.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the multiple parent objects are contained
2 on multiple platforms.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein if the objects to be selected by the filter
2 change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the
2 customized tree.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises
2 the step of adding an object to the customized tree.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises
2 the step of removing an object of the customized tree.

1 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises
2 the step of copying an object into the customized tree.

1 10. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises
2 the step of copying an object from a first position in the customized tree to a second
3 position in the customized tree.

1 11. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises
2 the step of removing the customized tree.

1 12. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises
2 the step of changing an object.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of using the
2 customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the
3 customized tree.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of restricting access to
2 the customized tree.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling
2 customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein each label distinguishes between
2 different objects of a similar type.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein each label is an indicator of a filter.

1 18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing graphical
2 user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is received
3 from one or more graphical user interfaces.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the customized tree contains a subset of
2 the objects of the original tree.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the objects of the customized tree are
2 organized in a user-specified manner.

1 21. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating multiple
2 customized trees.

1 22. An apparatus for creating a customized tree in a computer, the apparatus
2 comprising:
3 a computer having a data storage device connected thereto, wherein the data
4 storage device stores objects contained in a original tree; and
5 one or more computer programs for selecting an object on the original tree to be
6 contained in the customized tree in response to user input and linking the selected objects
7 in a user-specified manner.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:
2 means for creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input,
3 wherein the filter specifies a selection criteria to select objects to be contained within the
4 selected object on the customized tree; and
5 means for applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object
6 and the objects to be contained within the selected object.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for applying the filter
2 further comprises the means for selecting objects from multiple parent objects.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the multiple parent objects are
2 contained on multiple platforms.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein if the objects to be selected by the
2 filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the means for modifying the
2 customized tree.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further
2 comprises means for adding an object to the customized tree.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further
2 comprises means for removing an object of the customized tree.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further
2 comprises means for copying an object into the customized tree.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further
2 comprises means for copying an object from a first position in the customized tree to a
3 second position in the customized tree.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further
2 comprises means for removing the customized tree.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further
2 comprises means for changing an object.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the means for using the
2 customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the
3 customized tree.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the means for restricting
2 access to the customized tree.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the means for enabling
2 customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein each label distinguishes between
2 different objects of a similar type.

1 38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein each label is an indicator of a filter.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the means for providing
2 graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is
3 received from one or more graphical user interfaces.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the customized tree contains a subset
2 of the objects of the original tree.

1 41. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the objects of the customized tree are
2 organized in a user-specified manner.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the means for creating
2 multiple customized trees.

1 43. An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable
2 by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to
3 perform method steps for creating a customized tree from a original tree containing
4 objects from a data storage device connected to the computer, the method comprising the
5 steps of:

6 selecting one or more objects on the original tree to be contained in the
7 customized tree in response to user input;

8 linking the selected objects in a user-specified manner.

1 44. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the steps of:
2 creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter
3 specifies a selection criteria to select objects to be contained within the selected object on
4 the customized tree; and
5 applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the
6 objects to be contained within the selected object.

1 45. The article of manufacture of claim 42, wherein the step of applying the
2 filter further comprises the step of selecting objects from multiple parent objects.

1 46. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the multiple parent objects
2 are contained on multiple platforms.

1 47. The article of manufacture of claim 42, wherein if the objects to be
2 selected by the filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the
3 changed objects.

1 48. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of
2 modifying the customized tree.

1 49. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the step of modifying
2 further comprises the step of adding an object to the customized tree.

1 50. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the step of modifying
2 further comprises the step of removing an object of the customized tree.

1 51. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the step of modifying
2 further comprises the step of copying an object into the customized tree.

1 52. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the step of modifying
2 further comprises the step of copying an object from a first position in the customized tree
3 to a second position in the customized tree.

1 53. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the step of modifying
2 further comprises the step of removing the customized tree.

1 54. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the step of modifying
2 further comprises the step of changing an object.

1 55. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of
2 using the customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects
3 contained in the customized tree.

1 56. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of
2 restricting access to the customized tree.

1 57. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of
2 enabling customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

1 58. The article of manufacture of claim 57, wherein each label distinguishes
2 between different objects of a similar type.

1 59. The article of manufacture of claim 57, wherein each label is an indicator
2 of a filter.

1 60. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of
2 providing graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user
3 input is received from one or more graphical user interfaces.

1 61. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the customized tree
2 contains a subset of the objects of the original tree.

1 62. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the objects of the
2 customized tree are organized in a user-specified manner.

- 1 ~~63.~~ The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of
- 2 creating multiple customized trees.

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